

**From:** Mark McFarland  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/21/02 1:14pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

Dear Department of Justice,

I would like to comment on the Microsoft case. I think the proposed settlement is a bad one, for although it will cost Microsoft some money, it will also give them an enormous boost in the education market, one of the few areas where Wintel machines do not represent an overwhelming majority. In other words, the case against Microsoft was supposed to curb their monopolistic practices, while the proposed settlement actually helps them in this regard. And make no mistake, Microsoft is a monopolistic company. I am surprised that no one has commented on the illogic of two statements repeatedly made by Microsoft: first, they claim that they are not a monopoly, but they also claim that multiple operating systems would hurt the consumer since this would sow confusion. There are already competing operating systems--the two most popular are the Mac OS and Linux--and these two platforms have a dedicated customer base that is not confused or offput by the difficulties inherent in working outside the Windows hegemony. This point needs to be made clear to the public in order to push for a truly fair settlement and to counter Microsoft's aggressive public relations campaign against the anti-trust lawsuit. In conclusion, I encourage the Department of Justice to push for a harsher penalty against Microsoft, one that punishes, rather than rewards, them for their monopolistic practices.

--

Mark McFarland  
Assistant Professor of Music Theory  
Southeastern Louisiana University  
Department of Music & Dramatic Arts  
P.O. Box 10815  
Hammond, LA 70402  
(985) 549-5035